

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 384

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the development of self-government
in Kosovo.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2004

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. BIDEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the development of
self-government in Kosovo.

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, mandates an international civil presence and an international security presence in Kosovo, ending a brutal conflict in Kosovo;

Whereas during and immediately after the conflict, the people of Kosovo suffered from ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity;

Whereas more than 4 years after the end of the Kosovo conflict, the incidence of ethnic strife in Kosovo remains unacceptably high, and the need for the fundamental work of ethnic reconciliation in Kosovo remains great;

Whereas the ethnic violence that erupted in Kosovo on March 17, 2004, claiming the lives of 19 people, displacing more than 4,000 Kosovo Serbs and other minorities, and resulting in the destruction of more than 500 homes and at least 30 churches belonging to Kosovo minorities, serves as a reminder of serious challenges that remain in Kosovo;

Whereas the United States and the international community strongly condemned the ethnic violence that erupted in Kosovo on March 17, 2004;

Whereas the Senate adopted a resolution on April 8, 2004, urging political leaders to fulfill their commitment to rebuild property that was destroyed in the violence of mid-March 2004 in Kosovo, and to take all possible action to allow the more than 4,000 people displaced during the violence to return quickly and safely to their homes and communities;

Whereas ethnic crimes and violent reprisals against Kosovo citizens of all ethnic groups harm the victims, their families, and their communities, and impair their common future;

Whereas the integration of Kosovo into Europe, and into the international community, depends on the ability of the people of Kosovo to overcome the divisions which have too often marked the past in Kosovo;

Whereas an important goal of the international civil presence in Kosovo established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 is to facilitate a political process to determine the future status of Kosovo, taking into account the Rambouillet accords of 1999;

Whereas “Standards” of democratic self governance and a multiethnic society in Kosovo are embodied in the goals enunciated by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in April 2002, to include the effective functioning of democratic institutions, the rule of law, the sustainable return of displaced persons, dialogue with Serbia and Montenegro, freedom of movement, a stable free-market economy, property rights, and the further development of the Kosovo Protection Corps;

Whereas the people of Kosovo have made some important progress toward the fulfillment of these goals while continuing to face challenges, particularly on issues of refugee return and freedom of movement of Kosovo minorities;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, in its Presidential statement of December 12, 2003, endorsed the elaboration by UNMIK (the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo) of the “Standards” in the “Standards for Kosovo” document and welcomed the plan to periodically review the progress in Kosovo in implementing the standards;

Whereas UNMIK has drafted a comprehensive “Standards Implementation Plan” to give Kosovo precise guidance on the actions that must be taken to achieve the standards;

Whereas the United States and UNMIK are currently working together with the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo (PISG) to help Kosovo meet the standards with a view to carry out a comprehensive review of the progress in Kosovo “around mid-2005”; and

Whereas considerable further progress toward the realization of the standards remains to be accomplished before the

process of determining the future status of Kosovo can begin: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
2 United States should—

3 (1) intensify its efforts to help Kosovo achieve
4 the “Standards”, as set out by the Special Rep-
5 resentative of the United Nations Secretary General
6 in Kosovo in October 2002, and as further elabo-
7 rated in the UNMIK (the United Nations Interim
8 Administration in Kosovo) “Standards For Kosovo”
9 paper of December 10, 2003, to bring about a sta-
10 ble, multiethnic, and democratic society in Kosovo by
11 carrying out the steps called for in the Kosovo
12 Standards Implementation Plan drafted by UNMIK;

13 (2) further encourage Kosovo to become a fac-
14 tor for stability in the region by having good rela-
15 tions with its neighbors, and in particular, by engag-
16 ing in dialogue with Belgrade in an effort to secure
17 a peaceful, long-term solution for peace in the re-
18 gion;

19 (3) encourage Belgrade to support the stand-
20 ards implementation process in Kosovo, including by
21 constructive participation in the direct technical
22 talks launched October 14, 2003;

23 (4) enhance efforts to provide support to KFOR
24 (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led inter-

national security force in Kosovo), and to call upon the PISG (Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo) to ensure the security and freedom of movement for all the people of Kosovo, and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

(5) urge all people in Kosovo to reject the ethnic violence that erupted in Kosovo on March 17, 2004, and work with UNMIK and KFOR to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of the violence, to rebuild property destroyed during the violence, and to work to ensure that displaced persons are able to return safely to their homes and communities;

(6) promote steps to foster the development of the Kosovo economy through strengthened cooperation with the South Central Europe region and Euro-Atlantic institutions, without prejudice to its future political status; and

(7) call upon the leaders of the PISG, and upon the leaders of all political parties and communities of Kosovo, to renew and enhance their efforts in cooperation with UNMIK, KFOR, and the international community to achieve the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6).

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